

The Good News

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WHY The Church Ruled on Make-Up

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS question of lip-stick and other forms of make-up had to be settled. Some in the church felt very definitely that "make-up is wrong; it's worldly." There was in some cases an attitude of prejudice and accusation against those who wore it.

But others insisted, "I can't see any harm in wearing lip-stick. I think make-up is all right." But perhaps the largest number of women said, "Well, I'm going to wait and see what the ministers decide."

Must Understand Prerogatives

There was still another attitude: "I'm not going to let the ministers tell *me* what to do. I'm going to study this out for myself, and make my own decision. My religion is not between me and the ministers—it's between me and GOD."

All these different attitudes lead to CONFUSION—and ultimate division in God's Church. They serve the devil, not our God.

First of all, then, we need to get STRAIGHT in our minds, once and for all time, this matter of PREROGATIVES!

To illustrate what I mean: Healing the sick is GOD'S prerogative, not man's. God says "I am the God that healeth thee." And He says "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." To go to MAN, or a man-developed "SCIENCE" (falsely so called) for healing, then, is to break the very first commandment. HEALING is the prerogative of GOD—

and God is a JEALOUS God—jealous of His prerogatives.

It is the prerogative of GOD, not of man, to set in motion the LAWS respecting marriage, and what constitutes adultery. When civil courts of MAN write out laws permitting divorce and remarriage, these legislatures and courts are actually in contempt of the HIGHER COURT OF HEAVEN. Those who follow their invalid laws and who divorce and remarry are living in adultery, and are GUILTY before God, regardless of man's laws.

On the other hand, there are prerogatives that have fallen to MAN as an individual. God has set before every individual the way of blessings and eternal LIFE on the one hand, and the way of cursings and DEATH on the other; and God says to YOU, as an individual: CHOOSE!

That decision is YOURS, and yours ALONE—personally. God will not make it for you. He will not permit the CHURCH to make it for you. That's *your* prerogative.

But God also has laid prerogatives on HIS CHURCH! God RULES His children, in many ways, *thru His Church*. There are some decisions to be made by the CHURCH, and what God's called ministers in His Church bind on earth is *bound* in heaven, and what they loose is LOOSED in heaven! God's ministers are never free, however, to act AS THEY HUMANLY PLEASE, but only

according to the WORD OF GOD, and as LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

It's very important that we realize the JURISDICTION of the CHURCH.

Problems arise in which individual members are NOT COMPETENT to JUDGE. There have, for example, been a number of divorce and remarriage problems presented before the ministers of God's Church. The parties directly concerned felt unable, or incompetent, to judge—and lacked the AUTHORITY to render the decision that would be BOUND in heaven, and unquestioned. God's ministers have AUTHORITY in such cases.

Occasionally DOCTRINAL questions arise. The various members cannot agree. Some "see" it one way, others "see" it the other way. Unless settled, such doctrinal issues can lead to controversy, and division in the Church. Especially where group activities are concerned. Even individual ministers may be divided. This could introduce confusion, and ruin God's Church.

You find such a case history in the 15th chapter of Acts. Certain teachers came from Judea to Antioch, where there was a large Church.

"Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses," they taught, "ye cannot be saved."

But the apostles Paul and Barnabus disagreed. Some of the brethren believed one way, some the other.

Right here, LISTEN CAREFULLY,

brethren! *This is MIGHTY IMPORTANT!*

Had not Christ put GOVERNMENT in His Church—and a way of SETTLING such doctrinal disputes as to WHAT is sin, and what is NOT—as to WHAT is necessary to salvation, and what is not—these brethren would have become hopelessly divided. Some would have followed these Judaizing teachers—some would have followed Paul—had they looked only to MEN—had they said, "Well, my salvation is between me and God—I'm going to study this thing out for myself—" or, "I'm going to follow the preacher I like best."

But what did they do? How did Christ, the HEAD of the Church, *govern* in this matter? What PROCEDURE had Christ set in HIS CHURCH to prevent such questions leading to division and destruction of the Church?

They appealed to the HEADQUARTERS CHURCH AT JERUSALEM. God had a HEADQUARTERS CHURCH, where the largest number of His apostles and evangelists were assembled to consider and SETTLE the matter, as LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

They made the decision. Or rather, CHRIST made it thru them. *The decision was bound in heaven.* In this instance, the brethren at Antioch Church apparently accepted the decision unanimously, and division was prevented.

But supposing there had been one or two dissenters? Supposing one or two had said: "I disagree. I'm not going to let the Headquarters Church tell me what to believe or what to do." Such dissenters would have inevitably caused division.

THEN WHAT? The apostles, or evangelists, pastors or elders in charge at Antioch would have been then obliged to obey Rom. 16:17: "Mark them which cause divisions and offenses *contrary to the doctrine* which ye have learned, and AVOID THEM." In order to *avoid them*, the ministers would have been forced to disfellowship them and prevent their attending Church, and forbid any member to receive them into his home, or to listen to them in any manner, on pain of THEMSELVES being disfellowshipped.

That may seem like a harsh, stern action—but it's GOD'S GOVERNMENT which He holds His ministers responsible for enforcing. Our failure to have realized this, and to have enforced this in the mother Church at Eugene, Oregon years ago, did split that Church. It resulted, finally, in half the former members, embittered, soured, in a wrong spirit instead of that of God's Holy Spirit, being disfellowshipped—no longer members of GOD'S CHURCH, no longer participants in HIS WORK, no longer having the JOY of His salvation, but only the dregs of bitterness, jealousy, and hate. May God forgive us

for not having realized these facts about the GOVERNMENT which GOD set in His Church, and not having enforced it years ago when perhaps only one member should have had to be put out.

God helping us, we shall not again repeat that mistake! It may have cost precious lives we loved and served, their eternity! I would now rather offend one or two disgruntled dissenters than thru a false sense of "love" have them finally drag perhaps dozens or scores or hundreds into the lake of fire with them!

Counting Pentecost an Example

SUCH A MATTER IS THE OBLIGATION TO "COUNT" THE 50 DAYS that determine the day of Pentecost. God gave His annual Holy Days, not to individual MAN, as a separate, personal individual—but TO HIS CHURCH. When God instructs us to "count" to the day of Pentecost, that instruction is given to GOD'S CHURCH, not to separate individuals in it! God therefore puts responsibility and AUTHORITY for the counting, and setting the date, on His ministers and His Headquarters Church.

It was because of inability and incompetency by individuals to know how to COUNT properly that division was caused in the Church at Eugene, Oregon. Pentecost is not a festival God appointed to be kept in private, but an ASSEMBLY day for the CHURCH. Read Acts 2:1. THEY WERE ALL ASSEMBLED WITH ONE ACCORD IN ONE PLACE—and on the SAME DAY. Therefore it is *not* the prerogative of the individual to figure the day differently than GOD'S CHURCH, and try to pull off members after themselves on a different day, thus introducing DIVISION.

Hereafter, any individuals who refuse to attend on the right and proper day, as set and determined by God's Headquarters CHURCH, as they are in turn inspired and led by GOD'S SPIRIT, and as BOUND IN HEAVEN, and who stir up contention on that subject among brethren, leave us no alternative. They FORCE us, against our will, to MARK THEM, and AVOID THEM, by denying them entrance to God's services, and forbidding other members to fellowship with them, or discuss the matter in any way with them. Thus PEACE and HARMONY will be preserved among those in a right spirit, even tho the one or two self-willed, carnal-minded, disobedient trouble-makers are infuriated, and turned further into the gall of bitterness and resentment.

Ministers Settle Issue

This matter of lip-stick and other make-up worn by women became just such an issue. Like the matter of whether circumcision was right or wrong, nec-

essary or unnecessary—so we found not only women, but also men divided on the issue.

Just as there were no clear-cut Scriptures: "Thus saith the Eternal:" on the question of whether IN CHRIST circumcision was still necessary in the days when "the apostles and elders came together for to consider the matter" at Jerusalem, so we find it today.

There is no definite "Thou shalt," or "Thou shalt not" in the Scriptures on the subject of lip-stick, just as there is none on the subject of TOBACCO.

There was a current rumor that Evangelist Raymond Cole *wanted* his wife to wear make-up. I had, with some qualifications, expressed a few general principles on the subject, saying that I would make no final and definite statement until the ministers could counsel together and make it clear and binding. Some women said: "I don't want to do as Brother Armstrong said—I want to follow Brother Cole" on this question. And so it went.

WHAT A SHAME, brethren, that there should be ANY who want to follow favored MEN! Are you not yet carnal, when you talk like that? Have you never read I Cor. 3:1-7?

So I called Raymond Cole by long distance, and asked him about the rumor. He informed me he had NOT said he *wanted his wife to wear make-up*—but rather that he had been non-committal on the subject until the ministers at Headquarters could come together and make a definite and positive declaration.

The ministers were thus forced to come together, "for to consider the matter," even as our predecessors had done (Acts 15:6). I acquainted Raymond Cole with the decision God had led us to, and he fully concurred.

Then it became my duty to explain before the congregation assembled here at Headquarters the Church decision—even as I shall, by a separate article in the next number, explain this decision to the WHOLE membership. So far as I know there is not a dissenting voice here at Pasadena Church.

The Really BIG Issue

The really BIG issue is not whether "lip-stick is wrong" or whether it is right. As a matter of doctrine the *principle* involved is the SPIRIT behind its use. *Make-up is not either sin nor righteousness:* There is no direct "Thus saith the Eternal." When I was first converted, I faced the question of smoking. There was no specific "Thus saith the Eternal." I asked myself WHY I smoked. I asked it in the light of the SPIRIT of God's Law—the underlying PRINCIPLE of the Law. I was *honest* with myself in my answer. Tobacco is not of itself sin—but an honor (Please continue on page 5)

Does GOD Have a *Headquarters Church Today?*

Where is the central church of divine authority to which scattered members and local churches should look for TRUE DOCTRINE or to settle disputed points?

by Herman L. Hoeb

(EDITOR'S NOTE: God's called and chosen apostle and ministers at His Headquarters Church have rendered a decision setting forth the SPIRIT OF THE LAW in respect to a disputed point—the use of lip-stick and make-up by the women of the Church. A full explanation of that decision will appear in the next issue. However, God has not laid on His ministers in authority in His Headquarters Church the obligation to ARGUE the disputed point, now settled, with various members who either do not yet understand or may be contentious. It is merely *because* it was a disputed point, which many were unable to rightly understand, that the decision had to be rendered. The IMPORTANT issue is that we understand and accept GOD'S GOVERNMENT in His Church.)

Therefore, this article, which appeared in the October, 1953 issue, is repeated.)

INCREASING numbers are now being added by God to His Church. The establishment of local congregations is steadily increasing. God's church is *growing*.

BUT it is inevitable that with such wonderful growth, there should also be *new problems*. Decisions must be made to settle questions and confirm the faith of new converts.

God's church is a *holy* church. No person can "join" it. We are inducted into it by God through receiving and being led by the Holy Spirit. In God's church there is not to be confusion, antagonism, or quarrelling. "For God is NOT the author of confusion, but of peace, as in *all churches* of the saints" (I Cor. 14:33).

Although we who have been truly added by God have the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in us and guiding us, yet we are human. We still have to master and overcome our fleshly minds and passions. We have not yet attained perfection in character, which is our goal. With human nature striving against God's Spirit in us, it is inevitable that questions and controversies will arise—that disputes would flare into bitter contentions unless God should provide a *way* to preserve the church in unity.

Problems Are Inevitable

Paul wrote that "there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (I Cor. 11:19). There will always arise contentions between those who have not totally yielded themselves to God and those brethren who are fully obedient to the faith. Almost the entire New Testament is devoted to the way to handle these disputes, to bring about harmony in the spirit of love, that the work of carrying the gospel to all the world may be completed through the arduous zeal of ALL the members of the church of God.

In order that no disharmony should develop today, let us notice how Jesus governed the church of God at its inception in 31 A.D. Remember that *Jesus Christ RULES our church today* in the same manner as He ruled it from the beginning. He does not change in conduct. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Church at Jerusalem a "Headquarters Church"

The church of God at Jerusalem was a "headquarters church" to whom all looked for TRUTH! Other local churches often became confused. Controversies and disputes on certain points entered. It was to the Jerusalem church, *which had God's authority*, that they all turned. Let's notice it.

In Acts 15:1 and 2, we read of a dispute that arose in the local churches in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. In their midst were Paul and Barnabas, both of great authority in the church. Yet to whom did the brethren turn in order to settle the dispute? TO THE HEADQUARTERS CHURCH—JERUSALEM—WHERE THE OTHER APOSTLES AND ELDERS WERE GATHERED!

At Jerusalem the question would be considered and *decided*—why? Because the brethren *knew* that Jesus had given special *authority* to His ministers who were at the headquarters church—Jerusalem.

Jesus conferred upon His representa-

tives the keys of the kingdom of God and authority to guide the church through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They could "bind," or *forbid* certain things; and they could "loose," or *permit* certain things. In Matthew 18:18, Jesus gives his ministers the authority to make *binding decisions*, based on the revelation of God and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, in order to preserve the unity of the church in *love* and *truth!*

This explains the reason that the brethren mentioned in the book of Acts turned to the headquarters church at Jerusalem to settle their questions and disputes. They knew Jesus had promised to guide his apostles into all truth (John 16:13). The apostles had been thoroughly trained and fitted for their responsibilities through the personal correction, reproof and instruction of Jesus.

The apostles in turn had thoroughly instructed the elders and the congregation at Jerusalem in the way of truth. The church at Jerusalem was kept *pure* by the constant admonition and correction of the elders and apostles *so that it might be the example to all other churches*. Christians, like all human beings, need to learn *by example*. In New Testament times the churches in Gentile nations "became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus" (I Thess. 2:14); and the churches in Judaea were to pattern themselves after the headquarters church, the church at Jerusalem.

The congregation at Jerusalem, recognizing this responsibility, acted in her capacity. The apostles and elders made the decisions and they were binding on all other churches (Acts 15:22). They sent letters to the various local congregations explaining what "seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us" (Acts 15:28). Again, in a previous situation, when it was known that certain individuals had preached in Antioch and news of "these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem . . . they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch" (Acts 11:22).

Notice how the Jerusalem church, acting in her capacity, watched over, cor-

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rected, and even *intervened* in the affairs of her daughter churches.

No other church could claim this right which God had conferred on the Jerusalem church alone.

The Example at Ephesus

Let us call to mind the example of the church at Ephesus, where Paul had spent three whole years instructing and training the elders and the brethren. He *knew* even at his departure that false teachers and disloyal elders would soon "arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:30).

This is exactly what happened. Ephesus, and all the local churches in the surrounding Roman province of Asia, were soon turned against Paul *personally* by false teachers and *disloyal* elders who sought personal power and prestige themselves (II Timothy 1:15). The church was torn by divisions and controversies. It was *not* the example after which all the other churches were to pattern their conduct. It was not the central or headquarters church from which the gospel of the kingdom or government of God was sent forth into the world.

Jerusalem Church Was Headquarters

The Jerusalem church was the headquarters from which the apostles carried on their work of evangelizing the world. It was to the Jerusalem church that the apostles and Paul often returned after completing their journeys.

Jerusalem remained the headquarters church during the entire apostolic period, when the gospel was first carried to

the known world. The apostolic church was given TWO 19-year cycles in which to spread the gospel of the Kingdom to the nations. During the first cycle, its spread was confined to Asia; but at the beginning of the second cycle, God opened a great DOOR for the spread of the gospel into Macedonia *in Europe!*

The meaning of this DOOR is defined in II Corinthians 2:12-13. "I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a DOOR was opened to me of the Lord"—a means to preach the gospel abroad. The gospel then spread until 69 A.D.—during the second 19-year cycle. In that year the organized power of the church to preach the gospel abroad was stopped. The central church at Jerusalem was forced to flee immediately before the final siege of the city by the Roman armies.

Today's Church Prophesied

Now, just before the second coming of Christ to restore peace to this war-weary world, God has again given His church two 19-year cycles in which to carry the gospel of the kingdom to the whole world in fulfillment of Jesus' commission. Just as the early church was granted two 19-year cycles FOLLOWING THE ASCENSION OF JESUS TO HEAVEN, so now He has granted His church two 19-year cycles PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO THIS EARTH in which this gospel must finally encircle the globe.

Jesus gave a message for His church today (Rev. 3:7-13), a prophetic letter telling precisely what we would be accomplishing at this very moment. We are doing the *same work* as the early true church—carrying the gospel of the kingdom to the world. We have less human power and strength, we are

smaller in number than that early church; but we have the same power of GOD, and God has opened before us a DOOR—the door of radio and the printing press—which multiplies our power to reach today's increased world population.

The first 19-year cycle has already passed, and we are now spreading the gospel abroad to Europe and finally the entire world in this last 19-year cycle.

What wonderful and momentous times!

BUT, as the work of the church progresses, and as new converts are being added constantly and new local congregations established, *where* is the central church to which the scattered members and church congregations should look for TRUE DOCTRINE, or to settle disputed points?

The Answer Made Plain

The church at Jerusalem was the headquarters for carrying the gospel. At that church were those who were especially called and trained by Jesus, who were filled and led by the Holy Spirit. That church was *not* torn by factions and false doctrines, by disputes and controversies. In its midst was the main body of ministers to whom Jesus had committed the authority to make *binding decisions!*

In our day, when the same gospel is being preached, *there is again a headquarters church*, PROVEN BY ITS FRUITS—a church to whom *you* scattered brethren can turn in times of doubt and controversy, a church to whom God has committed *the authority* to make *binding decisions* in order to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of love (Eph. 4:3).

This central church is at PASADENA!

From the church at Pasadena emanate the broadcasts and the magazines that go to the world. It is at this church that the main body of ministers either constantly remain or continually return. At Pasadena is a church *not* torn by strife and division, but one thoroughly instructed in the faith, composed of faithful ministers and members. At Pasadena there is the Spirit of God—there is LOVE and PEACE—there is complete agreement, harmony, unity, under the leadership of Christ.

The church at Pasadena, in exercising its God-given AUTHORITY as the headquarters church, has already made *binding decisions* which had dissolved the doubts and problems of many brethren and even of local congregations.

It is marvellous how God guided and directed His church through the past years. Having begun the work of spreading the gospel in 1934, in Oregon, Jesus Christ caused the headquarters to be

(Please continue on page 7)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

TO ALL OF EUROPE:
 RADIO LUXEMBOURG — 23:30
 Mondays, Greenwich time.

TO ASIA AND AFRICA:
 RADIO CEYLON

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES
 Saturday 10:00-10:30 P.M.

ABC NETWORK, TRANSCONTINENTAL—Every Sunday. Consult local newspaper radio schedules for time and station.

NOTICE

There has been no issue of *The GOOD NEWS* since March.

WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

by Garner Ted Armstrong

THE warnings go out, and the shadows of doubt thrown across U.S. newspapers by noted news analysts indicate *at least the beginning* of skepticism over the revival of German military might.

But still, in the face of numerous articles on the staggering rise to power of a resurgent Germany, the semi-conscious stupor of wishful thinkers is not disturbed. There are those, sloth-like in their own dreams of unreality, *who still hang on to the shattered doctrine that the Germans have been "de-Nazified,"* and are completely repentant of their former evils, as they patiently await their status as *democratic vassals* of the West!

The conquered continue to *conquer the conquerors* in a vast, intricately organized trade war, as word comes from Bonn that West Germans are quietly rushing plans to build their first atomic reactor as soon as possible.

German shipbuilders, *ranking now second only to the United Kingdom,* are threatening to run away with the market. By 1956 they'll have a good three-quarters of their pre-war tonnage afloat!

Swiss watchmaking industries, the mainstay of the Swiss economy, are feeling the bite of Germany's resurgent industrial might. Watchmaking, always a German knack, is on the rise along the Rhine, with precision instruments underselling the Swiss on foreign markets by as much as 20%.

Here in the United States, Daimler-Benz, one of Germany's biggest automobile manufacturers, is starting a U.S. subsidiary, will start making heavy diesel trucks, tractors and industrial engines late this year. Yes, in the face of all of this, the condescending victors continue to poke themselves into a happy state of make-believe as they *buy and pay for*—WITH AMERICAN TAX DOLLARS—the *German dream of centuries*, a United Europe, with *Germany at its head!*

Chaos struck the midwestern United States in the form of whirling, rending winds a few weeks ago, leaving horrible pictures of destruction across four states. By flashlight, firemen and emergency workers picked the torn bodies from the debris, attempting to establish order from the confusion—wonderful human characteristics, you say? Yes—in a matter of hours the looting began. Men and women walked through the ruins of homes, averting their glance from the stark and glassy eyes of the victims, as they removed whatever they could carry

of the victim's possessions. It's a great world.

The disgusting battle for better wages, fewer hours, bigger pensions, paid vacations, guaranteed annual wages, and stock in the company for less work continued in the big automobile industries as the unionists demanded everything but the boss's shirt—and just about got that too! A good, willing attitude to work—brotherhood of man—love toward neighbor—giving, and all the other political ideologies—where are they?

It's important news! Two babies were born—to Mr. and Mrs. Jon Hill and to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Seelig—*without anesthesia, without shots, without any instruments—naturally, the way God intended.* Miraculous answers to prayer were given in both cases. To the "modernists" and their horror-stricken expressions of doubt and amazement we say—poof!

Science proudly announced the deadliest discovery yet to be hatched in the recesses of hate-filled humanity—a nerve gas, more deadly than the heaviest fallout of radioactivity from a nuclear explosion.

A real ingenious "humane" method to preserve the peace, this. It attacks the body nervous system, causing simultaneous collapse of nervous reactions, glandular functions and blood vessels, reaching the heart, liver and lungs in a matter of seconds, causing agonizing, excruciating death. A sensation of the whole body bursting into millions of fragments is the accompanying "warning" sign of this tasteless and odorless spectre of death. Of course, the reason the major powers are manufacturing this gas is because "they don't intend to use it!"

It's no "religious theory" to realize the conditions existing about you. Read your headlines, read the magazines, listen to the news broadcasts. What do you find there? Do men really know the way to peace? Do you see a bright future, security, happiness, your family safe in the protection of blissful unconcern? Lethargy and unconcern is shallow protection against nerve gas, and the flesh-tearing, bone shattering blast of huge explosions! Even trained soldiers seek shelter in the face of death. Shelter is available—so very accessible—the decision is yours!

With Germany staging such a tremendous comeback, with Asia and all of Indonesia scornfully rejecting U.S. wishes in the Far East, and the whole Eastern world trembling on the brink

of total Communism, with unrest and intrigue in Latin America, and with crime, hate and envy here at home, it seems that a recklessly belligerent nation would quit completely IGNORING the signs of the times! But the messages sent by God's prophets were *never* heeded by Israel! Still, the WARNINGS must go! With world events rushing toward a deafening crescendo of chaos, we need to set our jaws—tighten our belts, and WORK! Because the *night* is coming, when no man *can* work! (John 9:4)

WHY Church Ruled on Make-up

(Continued from page 2)

est searching of my own heart made plain that the use I had been putting it to was sin. Therefore I gave it up immediately. I didn't feel that it was dirty and filthy before I gave it up. But after being weaned from it, and receiving God's Spirit, I realized very plainly how dirty and filthy the habit is!

In the same way, women who have grown up from little girls CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD and its ways in regard to make-up do not see or feel that lip-stick or other make-up on the face is, chemically and scientifically as well as spiritually, colored *dirt* on the face! But women who have been weaned from it—no longer conformed to this world, but TRANSFORMED in the spirit of their minds by the HOLY Spirit of God—freed from addiction to vanity and wanting to be LIKE the world and a PART of the world and well thought of BY the world—such women do, then, come to realize how dirty the habit is—how utterly foolish, following the ways of the HARLOTS!

But the truly BIG issue is not even the right or wrong USE of lip-stick, or tobacco, or any one practice or doctrine.

The BIG issue that transcends these is OBDIENCE TO GOD!

And GOD governs, in certain cases of which this is an instance, *thru His CHURCH!*

At Antioch the brethren were divided. They lacked wisdom and ability to determine the right or the wrong of the DOCTRINE as to whether circumcision was right or wrong for a Christian. Difference of opinion as to what is right or wrong—as to what those in the Church should DO or *not* do—will lead to DIVISION OF THE CHURCH and loss of salva-

tion to many, unless quickly SETTLED!

In such cases, THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD is enforced *thru His Church!* In such cases, the issue is SETTLED by God's apostles and ministers at His Headquarters CHURCH, as led by the Spirit of God. Either the Spirit of God does LEAD those whom GOD has placed in authority in such decisions, *or else this is not the true Church of GOD!*

One may say: "Well, suppose you were a lay member of the Church, and you do not agree with the decision made on such a doctrine. Suppose you feel the Holy Spirit did NOT lead the ministers or the Headquarters Church in this matter?" The answer is: If I felt, as proved by the FRUITS, that this IS, truly, God's Church, then I should be forced to conclude, whether I "saw it" as they did or not, that GOD had led His ministers, and that I simply did not, as yet, see it—and I should accept and abide by their decision—WITHOUT ARGUMENT—without voicing my contrary views to members, thus influencing them *against* the government of GOD'S CHURCH—which is simply the government of GOD—*thru His Church!*

THIS is the really BIG issue! This, perhaps, is a test question as to whether God DOES rule thru His Church—or whether you have *really* repented, been converted, and are willing to OBEY GOD!

For even a minister out in the field, if he should not agree, or a minister's wife if she did not agree, to voice such disagreement or put forth arguments in private or public to church members contrary to the decision of the Headquarters Church, would be FLAGRANT DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD. Either this is true, or this is NOT God's true Church! If I were a lay member, or even a minister or minister's wife, and felt in my heart that God had *not* guided His ministers at the Headquarters Church in such a decision, and felt I could not accept it, then there would of necessity be two alternatives open to me. First, I should feel impelled to present to *those in authority and to no one else* my reasons for believing them to be in error and then if they rejected my reasons, and I felt they were *not* led of God, I would be forced to conclude this was NOT the true Church of God, but an impostor. And I should be obliged immediately to withdraw from it, and begin to seek the TRUE Church of God, in and thru which GOD is working, carrying His Gospel and last warning to the world, healing the sick, converting precious lives, feeding the flock on the true spiritual manna.

TEST of Obedience!

It is reported that there have been a very few—thank God, only a very few—cases of dissension on the Spirit-led de-

cision of God's Church on this matter of make-up, and even of private discussions and voicing of contrary opinions.

This, then, becomes an issue which FAR transcends the question of make-up. DOES God rule thru His Church? DOES God inspire and lead His apostles and chosen ministers? If the government of God is to break down at this point, then THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD IS DESTROYED IN THIS CHURCH. The life of the Church is at stake. Therefore, steps are being taken promptly to deal with any such personal actions tending to cause division, contrary to the doctrines taught by God's Church.

On most doctrines there is no need of a ruling by God's called and chosen ministers at His Headquarters Church. The Bible is itself plain on whether stealing, lying, murder, or idolatry are sin. But here was a matter on which neither the women nor the men were clear. They were divided. There was no definite "Thus saith the Eternal." There is a very definite SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE involved, *vital* to the salvation of women. Yet many women were unable to see it. God's ministers finally were forced to step in and DEFINE THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE INVOLVED. That is what we have done. There is not a doubt in our minds that we were led of God. The decision is GOD'S decision.

The decision is BOUND in heaven.

The decision is not *yours*, as an indi-

vidual, to make. The decision has been made BY GOD, and thru HIS CHURCH.

The one decision for you to make is whether you are yielded to the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. There is no plain, specific, direct "yes" or "no" in the Bible about make-up. Nevertheless God's attitude *is* revealed. No plain letter of the law. But, in these days of Grace, under the New Testament, we are to obey the law according to the SPIRIT—the principle involved—not the letter only. Individuals proved unable to define and apply the PRINCIPLES, according to the Spirit. This question, therefore, becomes *the prerogative of the Church* to rule on, *not of the individual.*

The Church has ruled. Now it does become a definite, specific "yes" or "no." The question, now, is whether you as an individual have really SURRENDERED your mind and heart to God—whether you are OBEДИENT to Him where He speaks—or whether you prefer to conclude this is NOT the true Church of God—NOT bearing the fruits of God nor carrying on the WORK OF GOD for this hour!

This is a vital TEST for some, as to whether they really have surrendered to God—really have repented—really have the Spirit of God, or are yet CARNAL and unconverted, wanting their own way, wanting to be CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, rather than TRANSFORMED by the Spirit of God.

God's Work Bears "Fruit"

God continues to *miraculously heal the sick!* Two of our ministers report the most happy experience of meeting two of our listeners in San Diego—a lady and her 76 year old mother who was *miraculously healed* just recently. She had a serious heart ailment and her blood pressure had risen dangerously to over 200. At her age, the doctor told her daughter, it was unlikely that she could rally and live much longer.

Though being fairly new to the truth, they decided to put their faith *totally in God* and trust *Him* to heal. They sent for an anointed cloth, and—as often happens once we have *exercised faith* and done *our part*—God began to *heal even before* the cloth arrived.

Here we quote from part of her daughter's thankful letter: "I asked you to pray for my mother a few weeks ago and it seemed I noticed an improvement from the time you received the letter and before the prayer cloth arrived. When the prayer cloth came I did as instructed and also burned it and a week later my mother's blood pressure had dropped to

175 and the doctor was amazed and said it was a miracle. We checked again a week ago and it is now normal, between 145 and 150 for which I do thank God and you for praying the prayer of faith which heals the sick. Truly our God is the same today, yesterday and forever and I am so thankful for it all and that surely God does heal. May God's richest blessings be upon you and yours, Mr. Armstrong."

Our ministers reported, after visiting this lady and her mother, that it had even strengthened *their* faith to see the *joy* and *thankfulness* of this lady and her mother who was now *remarkably* recovered.

This is only one example of *many* such instances of healing every week. God continues to bring forth *good "fruit"* through *His* work! These blessings should bring encouragement, and be a source of *rejoicing* and *increased faith* and *zeal* for us all. Truly, our God *is* the same yesterday, today, and *forever!* He will *always* heal IF we have real *faith* and LIVE by that faith.

Recipes for Busy Days

by Isabell Hoeb

ALMOST every housewife and mother has at some time said to her family, "I won't have any time to cook today. Find whatever you can in the refrigerator, since I am going to be busy washing and housecleaning."

With a little planning beforehand, you can complete your work *and* have a balanced meal for the family, too. Here are recipes you can make a day or more ahead.

Hamburgers are a favorite with nearly everyone, but they often require preparation immediately before mealtime. Now you can make hamburgers quickly, simply by heating this filling which was cooked in advance and stored in the refrigerator. For serving, warm the hamburger filling over a low fire and spread portions on toasted buns. It can also be served in a bowl as the meat course of a regular meal.

Hamburger Filling

1 lb. ground lean beef	1 can condensed tomato soup
1 cup chopped onion	1 or 2 tablesp.
1 cup chopped celery (2 large stalks)	barbecue or chili sauce
½ cup chopped green pepper	1 teasp. salt ¼ teasp. pepper

Wash and chop the celery, green pepper and onions.

Put a tablespoon of oil into a hot skillet, then spread the ground meat over the bottom of the skillet. When it is browned on the underside, stir in the chopped vegetables and cover the skillet. Turn fire fairly low, let the mixture steam until vegetables are tender.

Add the tomato soup, barbecue sauce and other seasonings, replace cover and simmer for 20 or 30 minutes.

Good canned barbecue and chili sauces may be purchased at most grocery stores. Watch the labels for the kind of fat used in them, if any. Used sparingly, these sauces can add zest to many meat and egg dishes.

A popular food with Americans is crackers. Different kinds are often served with soup and salads or as a snack. Unfortunately, most crackers are made of little else than white flour. By following this recipe, you can make delicious as well as healthful crackers yourself.

Wheat Germ Wafers

¼ cup cake flour	½ teasp. salt
¼ cup whole wheat flour	½ cup wheat germ
2 teasp. baking powder	2 tabsp. very firm butter
	¼ cup ice water

Sift the flours before measuring. Sift

the flours, baking powder and salt together into a bowl. Mix in the wheat germ. Cut the butter into the flour as when making pie crust. Add the water, blending well with a fork, but avoiding handling the dough too much.

Turn the dough onto a lightly floured board and shape it into a ball. Roll lightly with a rolling pin until it is wafer thin. You may need to flour the rolling pin to keep the dough from sticking. Cut dough with a 2-inch cutter and place wafers on an *ungreased* baking sheet.

Bake in a slow oven (325° F.) 12 to 15 minutes or until wafers are no longer soft. Makes about 30 small wafers.

For dessert, serve Peach Mallow. It is easily made and good.

Peach Mallow

1 envelope plain gelatine	¼ cup lemon juice
¼ cup cold syrup from lightly sweetened canned peaches	½ cup honey
1 cup canned, sliced peaches, drained	2 egg whites, stiffly beaten
	½ cup whipping cream or ½ cup chilled evaporated milk, whipped

Pour the peach syrup into the top part of a double boiler, and sprinkle the gelatine on the syrup. Place top part of double boiler over lower part containing boiling water to dissolve gelatine.

Mash the peaches, and add the honey and lemon juice to them. Stir in the dissolved gelatine and place mixture in refrigerator to chill until as thick as syrup.

Beat egg whites stiff, but not dry; then whip the cream. (Egg beater will not need rinsing before whipping the cream.) Fold the egg whites, then the whipped cream or evaporated milk into peach mixture and return to refrigerator to chill. Makes 6 large servings.

If you have no immediate use for the egg yolks which will be left, they may be added to the Peach Mallow also. Beat the yolks with 1 tablespoon of water and add to the gelatine while it is heating over the boiling water.

For a different flavor, 1 teaspoon almond extract may be added to the peaches after they are mashed. If chilled evaporated milk instead of cream is used, it should have been chilled at least 12 hours before being whipped. For such purposes, it is a good idea to always have a can of evaporated milk chilling in the refrigerator.

A good way to use the left-over yolks is in mayonnaise. Mayonnaise made by

the following recipe keeps well in a refrigerator.

Easy Mayonnaise

Mix together:

2 tablespoons brown or raw sugar
2 teaspoons dry mustard
1 teaspoon salt

Add:

5 tablespoons vinegar or ¼ cup fresh lemon juice

Stir to dissolve sugar

Then add but do not mix in:

¾ cup salad oil
2 egg yolks

Now pour 1 cup cold water into a pint jar and add 6 tablespoons flour or 3 tablespoons cornstarch. Shake jar until no lumps are left. Pour flour mixture into a small pan, and heat over a medium flame, stirring constantly as it cooks. A rubber spatula is good for this purpose.

When the flour mixture is thick, pour it *all at once* into the egg yolk-oil mixture and beat with a rotary egg beater for two minutes. If the beating is done with an electric mixer, use the high speed. Makes about 2 cups of mayonnaise.

Let mayonnaise stand for a half a day before using it to let the flavors blend. This may be varied by adding chopped pickle, pimiento, onion juice or crushed garlic. For fruit salads, add fruit juice or cream.

These are only a few recipes to give you an idea of the type of foods that are suitable for preparation in advance. Probably, in your own collection you have some that could be used this way, too.

A Headquarters Church Today?

(Continued from page 4)

moved to Pasadena in 1947. Many of the most faithful brethren came to Pasadena, together with Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong. Here at Pasadena, Ambassador College was founded to provide adequate ministerial help in spreading the good news of the kingdom—the *government and rule of God*. Already seven ministers (Editor's Note: thirteen at the present time) have been ordained, most of whom constantly remain here because of their duties. They have all been thoroughly trained in the TRUTH.

Instead of having confusion, as we find in so many denominations, God's way is a way of love and order, a way of obedience to His will as He reveals

it in the Scriptures—His revelation to man. It is *the government of God*, not the will of men or of a dictator professing to bear God's authority. Peter explains God's rule in the church very simply: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, BUT BEING ENSAMPLES TO THE FLOCK" (I Peter 5:2-3).

Who Shall Determine Dates and Places?

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY: Consider, now, one concrete example.

Does God intend each individual member to decide where, when, and how *group activities* of the whole church shall be held? Or does Christ, the living HEAD of His Church, determine these things and inspire the apostles and elders *whom HE has chosen* and installed in office, at His headquarters Church, to know His truth and set such dates, places, and ways of observance?

Jesus truly said we may KNOW people by their fruits—and we may know this answer by the fruits of experience.

As an illustration, just one of God's annual holy days falls on a day which must be calculated by COUNTING. All other holy days are set calendar days. But when we come to the very day which *pictures* our Church in this age as God's first fruits of salvation, and the symbol of the reception of His Holy Spirit within us—the day called "Pentecost," we are instructed to COUNT from a definite calendar day.

Are all people competent to make this calculation? Certainly God would not have each individual calculate it for himself *unless every individual is competent* to come to the right date!

Some, not knowing that the word "from" means "away out of," and in their ignorance of the English language absurdly supposing it to mean "beginning with," count only 49 days instead of 50. Others, not understanding the Hebrew language in which Lev. 23 was written and ignorant of the fact that the Hebrew "Sabbathon" means "weeks,"

and is so translated in the Jewish translation, count only 49 days to the "morrow after a Saturday," instead of counting 50 days to the morrow after the seventh WEEK. And these observe the same day observed by the devil's churches!

"Private Interpretation" Leads to Division

What are the FRUITS of this "*private interpretation*," by individuals whom God has *not* called as His instruments in ruling HIS CHURCH? The fruits are DIVISION, dissension, confusion, bad feeling, resentment, LOSS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! Those who have followed these practices have PROVED by the FRUITS of experience that *this is not God's way*.

JESUS CHRIST RULES HIS CHURCH! His Church must meet on the *right* day, and all on the SAME day, and the "place which the Eternal thy God shall choose." God does not rule thru individual lay members, but they are ruled BY Him *through* God's own chosen servants whom He has educated and trained as His leaders.

Such matters as deciding whether the Ten Commandments are binding today, whether the blood of Christ will, upon repentance and faith, remit our sins, must be *seen*, and understood by each individual personally—otherwise how could one *repent* of his transgressions if he did not know what that transgression consisted of; and how could he believe, unless convinced *in his own mind*, personally, of the efficacy of the blood of Christ?

Each individual is commanded to STUDY the Scriptures, so that he may *live by them* as a WAY OF LIFE. The truth is that most of God's children do not study the Bible enough.

But on all matters affecting the COLLECTIVE GROUP ACTION of the entire Church, *there can be no division*, or else the whole Church will be divided and a house divided against itself cannot stand! Therefore, God has placed GOVERNMENT in His Church to RULE in such matters, and to PUT OUT all such contentions and causes for divisions from His Church! In all such matters,

and even many decisions affecting private conduct, God RULES in His Church, thru Jesus Christ, the Head of His Church, and in turn thru the apostles and elders whom HE has called and trained thru experience and education for the office.

We are in the last days—the "TIME OF THE END"—when knowledge is being increased, and God is revealing hitherto hidden truths in His Word. It has taken time, and experience, for those whom God has called as His instruments in the rule of His Church to GROW to the fullness of such knowledge (II Pet. 3:18); and human reluctance to assume such authority, prior to the time God made us see it, has resulted in some sad experiences in the past.

God commands us (Eph. 4:27) not to give place to the devil, who deceives people into practices that produce confusion, and division which would KILL God's Church! The time has come when, seeing clearly what God has revealed, we must be obedient to Him. His Church must be rid entirely of contention, strife, or division! The time has come to FEAR GOD, and to TREMBLE before His Holy Word! THE POWER of God was manifest in backing up the authority of His chosen apostles and elders by striking dead Ananias and Sapphira!

God's servants must act in humility and all love and patience, and in WISDOM, first knowing the will of God—but they must act, by God's power and authority!

The church at Pasadena is *your headquarters church*, and as her children, all the brethren scattered abroad should feel free to ask for the advice and counsel of her ministers and elder brethren. This is God's way to preserve love and harmony, to preserve the faith in purity, to preserve the TRUTH, among God's people. Through Christ as living HEAD of the Church, and from Pasadena headquarters, the government of God is administered with divine authority in rendering decisions, in binding or loosing, in ruling the churches of God in our time.

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